

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02669 112041Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
MCE-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4218

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2669

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SW, US
SUBJECT: SWEDEN'S PURCHASE OF HARPOON MISSILE

1. THE SWEDISH PRESS JULY 8 ANNOUNCED THE SWEDISH NAVY'S INTENT TO PURCHASE 100 AMERICAN-MADE, LONG-RANGE, SURFACE-TO-SURFACE HARPOON MISSILES. THE HARPOONS, WHICH WILL BE PUT ABOARD SPICA 2 PATROL BOATS, WILL COST THE SWEDES 433 MILLION KRONER (NEARLY US\$100 MILLION). THE CONTRACT FOR THIS SOPHISTICATED ADVANCED MISSILE SYSTEM HAS ALREADY BEEN THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING AND THE FIRST COMBATANT MISSILES ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE ON BOARD AND FUNCTIONING BEFORE 1981-82.

2. COMMENT: THE SWEDISH PRESS CHIDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR LOOKING TO OVERSEAS CONCERNS TO MEET THE MILITARY'S EXPENSIVE MISSILE PROCUREMENT NEEDS, DESPITE EFFORTS OF SAAB AND BOFORS TO ORGANIZE A JOINT SWEDISH MISSILE INDUSTRY. WHAT THE PRESS IGNORED, HOWEVER, IS THE FACT THAT SWEDISH INDUSTRY IS IN NO POSITION TO MANUFACTURE LONG-RANGE MISSILES OF HARPOON-LEVEL SOPHISTICATION. INDEED, A TOP-LEVEL SWEDISH DEFENSE PLANNER ACKNOWLEDGED RECENTLY THAT SWEDEN WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PRODUCE MISSILES OF HARPOON RANGE AND CALIBER FOR ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS. IN INTERIM PERIOD, SWEDEN WILL HAVE TO RELY ON US MISSILE TECHNOLOGY, AS ADMITTEDLY THE WORLD'S MOST SUPERIOR.

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3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LARGE US ORDER WAS MADE COINCIDENTALLY ON THE HEELS OF THE US REFUSAL TO ALLOW SWEDISH EXPORT OF THE VIGGEN TO INDIA. THE VIGGEN STORY, HOWEVER, HAS YET TO BREAK IN THE PRESS, AND CONSEQUENTLY NO EYEBROWS HAVE BEEN RAISED OVER THIS JUXTAPOSITION OF EVENTS.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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